Kallada should be renewed. Though something was done in the matter, it did not result in any appreciable good to the people. The Member learnt that the work of repairing the culverts which had been given on contract was cancelled for some unknown reason in November 1914. The late Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar, when he was Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, had reported to Government in 1092 the necessity of reserving water in the Sasthamkotta lake during the monsoons so as to take it during the dry season for the use of the people of west Kallada. The Member also learnt that, in the year 1918, the Chief Engineer had submitted to Government an estimate for Rs. 1,38,000 for the necessary works in the east and west Kallada *pakuthies*. In November 1921 the Government passed orders to the effect that the Chief Engineer should be asked to give his opinion as to whether the restoration of the Kallada bund might not be treated as a major irrigation work and a cess imposed on the lands benefited by the work. The Member did not know what reply the Chief Engineer gave in the matter. The Dewan had observed in his opening speech that Government were alive to the importance of the part that drainage played in the agricultural economy of the State, that he recently inspected the east Kallada *pakuthi* where this question was one of pressing prominence, and that he proposed to visit the west Kallada *pakuthi* also where conditions were reported to be similar. The Member feared that the Dewan had not understood the nature of the work required in west Kallada, and said that the works in west Kallada did not require either the advice of an expert in irrigation or large sums of money to be spent on them. All that the people of west Kallada required was only the repair and restoration of damaged bunds and culverts. The Member specially drew attention to the bund that gave way last year for a length of half a mile and the culvert in it and remarked that, unless the necessary repairs were carried out, the next rain would cause immense loss of life and property. Government would not have to spend more than 5 years' revenue of the *pakuthi* or a portion of the yearly revenue of the taluk to repair the bunds and restore the culverts. Government had not spent money on any costly institutions there, the only public institutions being a school and an Anchal office. The Member, therefore, prayed that the above-mentioned works which were essential to the very existence of the people might be taken up and carried out before the next monsoon set in.

Dewan's reply.—The question of transfer of the Magistrate's Court has not yet been decided. Most of your grievances relate to western Kallada. You want immediate action to be taken. I cannot go there at once. I have said in my address that the matter will receive my early attention.

Member.—It will be of no use to us if Government do not take immediate action. The execution of the work may not take more than a month.

Dewan.—I shall inspect the place as soon as possible. I shall also bring the Chief Engineer with me so that we may decide upon something at the spot without further delay. When I said that an engineering officer should be given training in drainage problems, I did not mean that it was only when this expert became available that the works at western Kallada should be taken up. If, as you say, the works to be executed there are of a minor character, such as closing breaches, which will not involve any heavy outlay, we can do it independently of the expert engineer.

68. Some urgent needs of the northern pakuthies of the Karunagapalli taluk in the matter of communications, irrigation and drainage with suggestions for meeting them.

Mr. G. Raman Menon M. A., B. L. (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that the Karunagapalli taluk and, more especially the northern *pakuthies* of it, were very deficient in the matter of roads, bridges and facilities for drainage and irrigation, and that, to make up for past neglect, a fair allotment of money should be annually sanctioned for public works in the northern *pakuthies* of the taluk.

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In the northern portion of the Karunagapalli taluk, about 45 square miles in extent, there was only one gravelled cartable road from Karunagapalli to Kayankulam, a distance of about 8 miles, and another from Krishnapuram to Kuttitteruvu, a distance of about 2 miles. There were no other cartable roads opened by the Government in this part of the taluk, and there were no cartable roads at all from east to west in the taluk. The canals and water-courses were unfordable during rains and there were no bridges or public ferries in the greater portion of the area referred to. The Member prayed that at least one gravelled cartable road be provided eastwards from each of the western *pakuthies*, viz., Putupalli, Perinad, Kulasekharapuram and Karunagapalli. The ungravelled cartable roads from west to east in Karunagapalli and Kulasekharapuram *pakuthies* had also to be improved and gravelled. The water-courses in the Putupalli *pakuthi* were deep and dangerous and had strong currents in the rainy seasons, and to a less extent the Perinad *pakuthi* was also in the same predicament. The Member prayed that a cartable road from east to west be opened at once in each of those two *pakuthies* with bridges over the canal and water course. Thus seven roads had to be opened from the western *pakuthies* to the east, and, as already mentioned in his representation at the Assembly in 1093, if Government were not able to take them up all at once, those in Putupalli and Perinad should have priority.

The chief roads and other works required were the following :—

(1) A road from Krishnapuram due west to the shore of the Kayankulam lake with two bridges on the way over canals, the distance being about 1 mile.

(2) A road from Ayiramtengu to Tamarakulam *via* Ochira. The distance was about 8 miles, of which 4½ miles from Tamarakulam to Irippakulangara had been already gravelled by the people and only the remaining distance of 3½ miles had to be tackled by Government.

(3) A road from the Karunagapalli Taluk Cutcherry to Sastamkotta. This road was one of the public works selected for the Karunagapalli taluk at the P. W. D. Conference held in 1914.

(4) A road from Todiyil to Vallikkavu *via* Kulasekharapuram.

(5) A road from Puchakkadu on the Karunagapalli-Kayankulam road to Alappad on the shore of the backwater.

(5) Widening of the village road from Changankulangara to Pandakasala landing place on the shore of the backwater.

(7) A road eastwards from Changankulangara to Vallikunnam.

The necessity for the following works already sanctioned by Government was also urged.

There were two bridges at Mampara on the Krishnapuram-Kuttitteruvu road over two canals on the way. Both these bridges which were very near each other had been destroyed by floods. The bridges should be of a little larger span so as to allow free flow of water under them during floods. The level of the road in that locality should be raised so as to avoid damage during floods to the road and the bridges. The bridges should also be on a higher elevation so as to allow the passage of boats below during the rainy season. At any rate the bridge over the canal from Kayankulam to Todiyil should be on a higher level. Further, the improvement of this canal so as to allow boat traffic at all seasons was another important necessity. This was also one of the items of work selected at a conference of the S. M. P. A. members of the Quilon Division and the Chief Engineer in 1914. The bridge over the Krishnapuram canal recently completed was dangerous during rains to passengers. It consisted of a high middle portion with steep slopes towards the platforms. The Member prayed that the platform at each end be raised by two or three feet so as to lessen the steepness of the slopes.

The Tazhathodu, an old canal, extending from Vattakayal to Kayankulam for over 8 miles, was in disrepair and should be cleared and widened and kept in proper condition. The canal from Todiyil to Kayankulam, a distance of about 12 miles,

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should be cleared, widened and deepened and kept in good order. This was also one of the works selected at the P. W. D. conference of 1914.

Several old water-courses flowing into the backwater should be kept in repair so as to avoid damage to cultivation from floods in the western *pakuthies*. The opening of the outlet at the proper time during the rainy season to the sea from the Kayankulam backwater when it became closed owing to natural causes was necessary for the protection of the fields on the western side of the taluk, as also Kartikapalli and Mavelikara. Much loss had been caused by the delay in recent years in opening the bar. The Member requested that a proper place on the beach might be selected to open the bar and the opening might be entrusted to a respectable landlord of the locality or the neighbourhood.

Karunagapalli suffered from scarcity of water during summer months and in consequence the crops got dried up. An investigation might be made to see whether a dam and a lake might be constructed in the upper portion of the Kulakkada river for irrigating the lands in this and the neighbouring taluks or whether the taluk might be irrigated from the fresh water lake at Sastamkotta. If neither of the above schemes was feasible, large tanks might be constructed in connection with the canals for storing up water for irrigation purposes.

The Member realised that it might not be possible for Government to deal with each taluk on such a scale as described above. Since, however, for a long time past, Government were neglecting Karunagapalli, the people of that place had a special claim on Government for some years until justice was done to it in comparison with other areas which had been specially favoured during the past.

Lastly, the Member suggested the desirability of organising local boards and making proper arrangements for meeting local needs. He said that, considering the nature of the locality, its needs and the sums already spent by Government for public works, an equitable percentage of income should be allowed to each such board, which should be given the powers necessary for the control of the sum, and that the allotment might be revised from time to time according to circumstances in each case.

Dewan's reply.—I am sorry that you did not give me in advance a list of the points on which you were proposing to speak. Then, I should have been in a position to tell you how matters stood in respect of each and every item, whereas I can now give you only a general reply. I admit that Karunagapalli taluk is handicapped for want of communications. But it is a taluk where road-making is very costly on account of the sandy and slushy nature of the soil. I believe the same is the case with the Kartikapalli taluk also. These two taluks are receiving special attention. Sections of the Quilon-Alleppey road in both the taluks have been given special allotments this year and we propose to complete this arterial road first. There are still four miles, I think, which have got to be made up in the Karunagapalli taluk. Each of these four miles means about Rs. 15,000. That is the first thing to be attended to, and then the other communications that you have mentioned must be taken up gradually. Your suggestion in regard to local boards is a very good one. A Bill on this subject is ready and will shortly be published. These boards can be given administrative powers; they can say which work is urgent and which not, and they can be given grants for carrying out the urgent works.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.

69. Certain suggestions for the more efficient protection of public interests through the Legislative Council.

Mr. G. Raman Menon M. A., B. L. (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that the object of his representation was to concentrate the attention of both the Government and the people on the necessity of making the Executive Government responsible to the duly elected representatives of the people in the Legislative Council. He pointed out that the people were the natural defenders of their own purses

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